

Hartle-Hawking state is a maximum of entanglement entropy

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It is shown that the Hartle-Hawking state of a scalar field is a maximum of entanglement entropy in the space of pure quantum states satisfying the condition that backreaction is finite. In other words, the Hartle-Hawking state is a curved-space analogue of the EPR state, which is also a maximum of entanglement entropy.

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Entanglement entropy [1,2] is one of the strongest candidates of the origin of black hole entropy [3,4]. It is originated from a direct-sum structure of a Hilbert space of a quantum system: for an element $|\psi\rangle$ of the Hilbert space \mathcal{F} of the form

$$\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}_I \bar{\otimes} \mathcal{F}_{II}, \quad (1)$$

the entanglement entropy S_{ent} is defined by

$$S_{ent} = -\text{Tr}_I[\rho_I \ln \rho_I], \\ \rho_I = \text{Tr}_{II}|\psi\rangle\langle\psi|. \quad (2)$$

Here $\bar{\otimes}$ denotes a tensor product followed by a suitable completion and $\text{Tr}_{I,II}$ denotes a partial trace over $\mathcal{F}_{I,II}$, respectively.

In Ref. [5], a new interpretation of the entanglement entropy was proposed based on its relation to the so-called conditional entropy and a well-known meaning of the latter. It was conjectured that the entanglement entropy for a pure state is an amount of information, which can be transmitted through \mathcal{F}_{II} and \mathcal{F}_I from a system interacting with \mathcal{F}_{II} to another system interacting with \mathcal{F}_I by using quantum entanglement. Thus, it is important to seek quantum states having maximal entanglement entropy and to investigate properties of the states. In fact, it was shown that a state having maximal entanglement entropy plays an important role in quantum teleportation [5].

In this letter, we show that the Hartle-Hawking state [6] of a scalar field is a maximum of entanglement entropy in the space of pure states satisfying a consistency condition.

For simplicity, we consider a minimally coupled, real scalar field described by the action

$$S = -\frac{1}{2} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} [g^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu \phi \partial_\nu \phi + m^2 \phi^2], \quad (3)$$

in the spherically symmetric, static black-hole spacetime

$$ds^2 = -f(r)dt^2 + \frac{dr^2}{f(r)} + r^2 d\Omega^2. \quad (4)$$

We denote the area radius of the horizon by r_0 and the surface gravity by κ_0 ($\neq 0$):

$$f(r_0) = 0, \\ \kappa_0 = \frac{1}{2} f'(r_0). \quad (5)$$

We quantize the system of the scalar field with respect to the Killing time t in a Kruskal-like extension of the black hole spacetime. The corresponding ground state is called the Boulware state and its energy density is known to diverge near the horizon. Although we shall only consider states with bounded energy density, it is convenient to express these states as excited states above the Boulware ground state for technical reasons. Hence, we would like to introduce an ultraviolet cutoff α with dimension of length to control the divergence. Of course, we shall take the limit $\alpha \rightarrow 0$ in the end. The cutoff parameter α is implemented so that we only consider two regions satisfying $r > r_1$ (shaded regions *I* and *II* in Figure 1), where r_1 ($> r_0$) is determined by

$$\alpha = \int_{r_0}^{r_1} \frac{dr}{\sqrt{f(r)}}. \quad (6)$$

(Strictly speaking, we also have to introduce outer boundaries, say at $r = L$ ($\gg r_0$), to control the infinite volume of the constant- t surface. However, even if there are outer boundaries, the following arguments still hold and we can take the limit $L \rightarrow \infty$ in the end.) Evidently, the limit $\alpha \rightarrow 0$ corresponds to the limit $r_1 \rightarrow r_0$. Thus, in this limit, the whole region in which $\partial/\partial t$ is timelike is considered.

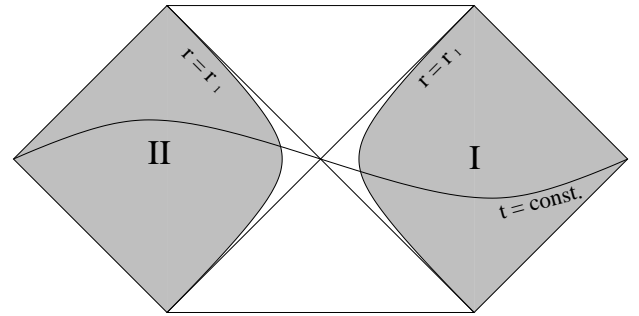


FIG. 1. The Kruskal-like extension of the static, spherically symmetric black-hole spacetime. We consider only the regions satisfying $r > r_1$ (the shaded regions *I* and *II*).

In this situation, there is a natural choice for division of the system of the scalar field: let \mathcal{H}_I be the space of mode functions with supports in the region I and \mathcal{H}_{II} be the space of mode functions with supports in the region II . Thence, the space \mathcal{F} of all states are of the form (1), where \mathcal{F}_I and \mathcal{F}_{II} are defined as symmetric Fock spaces constructed from \mathcal{H}_I and \mathcal{H}_{II} , respectively:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{F}_I &\equiv \mathbb{C} \oplus \mathcal{H}_I \oplus (\mathcal{H}_I \bar{\otimes} \mathcal{H}_I)_{sym} \oplus \cdots, \\ \mathcal{F}_{II} &\equiv \mathbb{C} \oplus \mathcal{H}_{II} \oplus (\mathcal{H}_{II} \bar{\otimes} \mathcal{H}_{II})_{sym} \oplus \cdots.\end{aligned}\quad (7)$$

Here $(\cdots)_{sym}$ denotes the symmetrization.

Let us investigate what kind of condition should be imposed for our arguments to be self-consistent. A clear condition is that the backreaction of the scalar field to the background geometry should be finite. Thus, the contribution ΔM of the subsystem \mathcal{F}_I to the mass of the background geometry should be bounded in the limit $\alpha \rightarrow 0$. Although this condition is not a sufficient condition in order to make the backreaction finite, what is surprising is that we can obtain the Hartle-Hawking state without using any other conditions stronger than this. In this sense, our strategy of maximizing entanglement entropy seems as strong as the maximum entropy principle in the statistical thermodynamics.

As shown in Ref. [7], ΔM is given by

$$\Delta M \equiv - \int_{x \in I} T_t^t 4\pi r^2 dr = H_I, \quad (8)$$

where H_I is the Hamiltonian of the subsystem \mathcal{F}_I with respect to the Killing time t . Hence, the expectation value of ΔM with respect to a state $|\psi\rangle$ of the scalar field is decomposed into the contribution of excitations and the contribution from the zero-point energy:

$$\langle \psi | \Delta M | \psi \rangle = E_{ent} + \Delta M_B, \quad (9)$$

where E_{ent} is entanglement energy¹ defined by

$$E_{ent} \equiv \langle \psi | : H_I : | \psi \rangle, \quad (10)$$

and ΔM_B is the zero-point energy of the Boulware state. Here, the colons denote the usual normal ordering.

Since the Boulware energy ΔM_B diverges as $\Delta M_B \simeq -cAT_H\alpha^{-2}$ in the limit $\alpha \rightarrow 0$, we should impose the condition

$$E_{ent} \simeq |\Delta M_B| \quad (11)$$

in the lowest order in α^{-1} , where $A = 4\pi r_0^2$ is the area of the horizon, $T_H = \kappa_0/2\pi$ is the Hawking temperature

and c is a positive constant of order unity. We call this condition the *small backreaction condition (SBC)*².

Note that the right hand side of SBC (11) is independent of the state $|\psi\rangle$. Thus, SBC implies that the entanglement energy should be fixed when we maximizes the entanglement entropy. In statistical thermodynamics, it is well known in what situation we should fix average energy: we have to fix it when we know observed value of energy. However, the corresponding situation seems not to have been essentially known for (quantum or thermal) excitations of fields on a black hole background. In fact, for the brick wall model, in which thermal excitations are considered, Ref. [7] is the first which pointed out that the ground state for the brick wall model is the Boulware state and that the Boulware (negative, divergent) energy should be added to thermal energy. (See Refs. [10–12] for complete confusion reigning on this subject.) For our system in this letter, it is the Boulware (negative, divergent) energy that makes us fix the entanglement energy.

Now, we shall show that the Hartle-Hawking state is a maximum of the entanglement entropy in the space of pure quantum states satisfying SBC. For this purpose, we prove a more general statement for a quantum system with a state-space of the form (1): *a state of the form*

$$|\psi\rangle = \mathcal{N} \sum_n e^{-E_n/2T} |n\rangle_I \otimes |n\rangle_{II} \quad (12)$$

is a maximum of the entanglement entropy in the space of pure states with fixed expectation value of the operator E_I defined by

$$E_I = \left(\sum_n E_n |n\rangle_I \cdot {}_I\langle n| \right) \otimes \left(\sum_m |m\rangle_{II} \cdot {}_{II}\langle m| \right), \quad (13)$$

provided that the real constant T is determined so that the expectation value of E_I is actually the fixed value. Here, \mathcal{F}_I and \mathcal{F}_{II} are assumed to be isomorphic to each other, $\{|n\rangle_I\}$ and $\{|n\rangle_{II}\}$ ($n = 1, 2, \cdots$) are bases of the subspaces \mathcal{F}_I and \mathcal{F}_{II} , respectively, and E_n are assumed to be real and positive. Note that this statement looks almost the same as the following statement in statistical thermodynamics: a canonical state is a maximum of statistical entropy in the space of states with fixed energy, provided that the temperature of the canonical state is determined so that the energy is actually the fixed value. Thus, it might be expected that the above general statement might be directly derived from the standard Jaynes method [13] as this statement in statistical thermodynamics can be derived. However, the Jaynes method cannot be applied directly to our system since

¹ This definition corresponds to $E_{ent}^{(I')}$ in Ref. [8] and $\langle : H_2 : \rangle$ in Ref. [9].

² Off course, finite energy can be added to the entanglement energy without generating divergent backreaction. However, the finite energy is higher order in the α^{-1} expansion. Thus, effects of the finite energy are higher order in α^{-1} .

Jaynes method treats entropy of not a subsystem but a total system. Thus, in the proof given below, we seek a correspondence between our variational principle and the standard variational principle in statistical thermodynamics. (See Eq. (23).)

Note that the expectation value of E_I is equal to the entanglement energy (10), providing that $|n\rangle_I$ and E_n are an eigenstate and an eigenvalue of the normal-ordered Hamiltonian : H_I : of the subsystem \mathcal{F}_I . Hence, for the system of the scalar field, the above general statement insists that the state (12) is a maximum of the entanglement entropy in the space of pure states satisfying SBC, which corresponds to fixing the entanglement energy. Of course, in this case, the constant T should be determined so that SBC (11) is satisfied.

Returning to the subject, let us prove the general statement. (The following proof is the almost same as that given in the Appendix of Ref. [5] for a slightly different statement. However, for completeness, we shall give the proof.)

First, we decompose an element $|\psi\rangle$ of \mathcal{F} as

$$|\psi\rangle = \sum_{n,m} C_{nm} |n\rangle_I \otimes |m\rangle_{II}, \quad (14)$$

where the coefficients C_{nm} ($n, m = 1, 2, \dots$) are complex numbers satisfying $\sum_{n,m} |C_{nm}|^2 = 1$ and can be considered as matrix elements of a matrix C . Since $C^\dagger C$ is a non-negative Hermitian matrix, it can be diagonalized as

$$C^\dagger C = V^\dagger P V, \quad (15)$$

where P is a diagonal matrix with diagonal elements p_n (≥ 0) and V is a unitary matrix. For this decomposition and diagonalization, the entanglement entropy and the expectation value of the operator E_I are written as follows.

$$S_{ent} = - \sum_n p_n \ln p_n, \quad (16)$$

$$E_{ent} = \sum_{n,m} E_n p_m |V_{nm}|^2, \quad (17)$$

where V_{nm} is matrix elements of V . The constraints $\sum_{n,m} |C_{nm}|^2 = 1$ and $V^\dagger V = \mathbf{1}$ are equivalent to

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_n p_n &= 1, \\ \sum_l V_{ln}^* V_{lm} &= \delta_{nm}. \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

Next, we shall show that these expressions are equivalent to those appearing in statistical mechanics in \mathcal{F}_I . Let us consider a density operator $\bar{\rho}$ on \mathcal{F}_I :

$$\bar{\rho} = \sum_{n,m} \tilde{P}_{nm} |n\rangle_I \cdot {}_I \langle m|, \quad (19)$$

where (\tilde{P}_{nm}) is a non-negative Hermitian matrix with unit trace. By diagonalizing the matrix \tilde{P} as

$$\tilde{P} = \bar{V}^\dagger \bar{P} \bar{V}, \quad (20)$$

we obtain the following expressions for entropy S and an expectation value E of the operator $\bar{E}_I \equiv \sum_n E_n |n\rangle_I \cdot {}_I \langle n|$.

$$\begin{aligned} S &= - \sum_n \bar{p}_n \ln \bar{p}_n, \\ E &= \sum_{n,m} E_n \bar{p}_m |V_{nm}|^2, \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

where \bar{p}_n is the diagonal elements of \bar{P} . The constraints $\text{Tr} \bar{\rho} = \mathbf{1}$ and $\bar{V}^\dagger \bar{V} = \mathbf{1}$ are restated as

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_n \bar{p}_n &= 1, \\ \sum_l \bar{V}_{ln}^* \bar{V}_{lm} &= \delta_{nm}. \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

From these and those expressions, the following correspondence is easily seen:

$$\begin{aligned} S_{ent} &\leftrightarrow S, \\ E_{ent} &\leftrightarrow E, \\ C^\dagger C &\leftrightarrow \tilde{P}. \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

Hence, a maximum of S in the space of statistical states with a fixed value of E gives a set of maxima of S_{ent} in a space of quantum states with a fixed value of E_{ent} . (All of them are related by unitary transformations in the subspace \mathcal{F}_{II} .) Thus, since the thermal state $\tilde{P}_{nm} = e^{-E_n/T} \delta_{nm}$ is a maximum of S in a space of statistical states with a fixed value of E , $C_{nm} = e^{-E_n/2T} \delta_{nm}$ is a maximum of S_{ent} in a space of pure quantum states with a fixed value of E_{ent} . Here the temperature T should be determined so that E (or E_{ent}) has the fixed value. This completes the proof of the general statement.

Therefore, for the system of the scalar field, a state of the form (12) is a maximum of the entanglement entropy in a space of pure quantum states satisfying SBC, provided that the constant T is determined so that SBC is satisfied. The value of T is easily determined as $T = T_H$ by using the well-known fact that the negative divergence in the Boulware energy density can be canceled by thermal excitations if and only if temperature with respect to the time t is equal to the Hawking temperature³.

Finally, by taking the limit $\alpha \rightarrow 0$, we obtain the statement that the Hartle-Hawking state is a maximum of entanglement entropy in a space of pure quantum states

³ See eg. Ref. [7].

satisfying SBC ⁴. In other words, the Hartle-Hawking state is a curved-space analogue of the EPR state, which is also a maximum of entanglement entropy [5].

From this result we can say that the brick wall model of 'tHooft [10] seeks the maximal value of entanglement entropy [15]. Thus, the maximal entanglement entropy is equal to the black hole entropy if the cutoff length α is set to be of order of the Planck length. Although in our arguments we have taken the limit $\alpha \rightarrow 0$, it will be valuable to investigate possibilities that quantum fluctuations of geometries may prevent α from being zero and that the fluctuations of the horizon may be effectively represented as a Planck-order-value of α . Note that the effect of non-zero value of α to our arguments should be small enough if the mass of a background black hole is sufficiently large in Planck unit.

Our arguments suggests strong connection among three kinds of thermodynamics: black hole thermodynamics, statistical thermodynamics, and entanglement thermodynamics [5,8,9,16]. Moreover, from the interpretation of entanglement entropy proposed in Ref. [5], it is expected that the Hartle-Hawking state may play an important role in transmitting information by using quantum entanglement to restore temporarily missing information. It will be interesting to investigate such a possibility in detail.

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⁴ The Hartle-Hawking state is actually of the form (12) with $T = T_H$ [14], provided that $\alpha \rightarrow 0$.